

LADY DEATH: THE ODYSSEY #1 (OF 4) • APRIL 1996 • 30 STORIES/80 PGS CANADA

Lady Death

Story So Far

Lady Death is ever a woman of contradictions, and with good reason: The blood of both angels and demons flow through her veins. How did a lonely girl from the middle ages become LADY DEATH, the ravishing seductress of the netherworld?

Lady Death began her existence as Hope, daughter of the demonic feudal lord Matthias. But due to her Father's demonic actions, she was sentenced to burn at the stake by the local townspeople. With no other recourse, she renounced her humanity, believing she would be delivered from a heinous fate. But in truth, it was to Hell she traveled, to live among the eternally damned.

In Hell, she encountered Lucifer. He wanted to give her great power and revealed that in Hell desire equals power. She refused him.

Matthias himself was in Hell and led an army against Lucifer. Meanwhile, Lucifer's lesson was not lost on Hope. She decided to take control and fight Matthias. Matthias bested Lucifer in battle and absorbed his considerable might. Then he learned Hope existed. His first official act as lord of Hell - he would destroy her!

Unshaken by the swarming armies approaching her, Hope marched forward as LADY DEATH to murder Matthias. But it was revealed that they were pawns to the father of evil, Lucifer. Lady Death learned that her life was a game meant for Lucifer's amusement. He wanted to corrupt a child of light and make her a child of darkness.

Hope defeated Lucifer by recalling Lucifer's lesson. He had made her too well. There was nothing she desired more than Lucifer's death. He cursed her. "As long as the living walk, you can never return to earth," he proclaimed. Lady Death's reply: "If the living must die, then they will die!" And with her new vast abilities, she transformed Hell into the Endless Graveyard.

Four hundred years later, Lady Death was on her way to achieving her goal of ending all life on earth, using her earthly emissary, Evil Ernie.

While battling Purgatori, the vampiric Goddess of Judgment, She learned that Lucifer's soul was not trapped within her. It never was. With his secret exposed, Lucifer ended his eons-long subterfuge and revealed himself. He divulged that her reign in the Endless Graveyard - and in fact, her entire life - had been a grand manipulation! Tired of fighting, Lady Death surrendered to the ways of Hell and became Lady Demon. A child of complete darkness. Finally, Lucifer was satisfied.

Lady Demon was lured into the wilds of Hell. There she encountered the imprisoned soul of her mother, Marion. Marion pleaded with Lady Death to absorb her angelic energy and use it to defeat Lucifer - or die trying. Reluctantly, she agreed.

In an epic battle, Lady Death fought Lucifer, but the angelic energies were not enough. Finally, she managed to kick Lucifer into Heaven's Gate, where only those worthy may pass. Against all odds, Lady Death truly defeated Lucifer and was controller of her own destiny.

Hell's denizens insisted that Lucifer's disappearance signaled the commencement of "The Judgment Era of The Fallen Angels."

Craving "home" and severely weakened, Lady Death journeyed to see if Lucifer's curse remained. But before she could test it, she was banished into The Unknown - an aspect of the Nexus of All Things where all theologies clash.

Recently, Lady Death was brought to Earth by Evil Ernie. She learned that Lucifer's curse indeed remained. Now back drifting in The Unknown, Lady Death wonders: "What is my destiny and will I ever find home again?"

Lady Death®

"The Odyssey" part 1 (of 4): "Crossroads"



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TO KNOW HER IS TO KNOW A WOMAN CURSED.

ONCE, THIS TOWERING, MAGNIFICENT GODDESS WAS THE QUEEN OF ALL THAT IS DEAD AND DYING. SHE LED CAMPAIGNS OF TERROR, STRUCK FEAR IN ALL WHO CROSSED HER PATH, AND TRIUMPHED AGAINST LUCIFER, FATHER OF EVIL, HIMSELF.

NO MATTER HOW LONG THE ODDS, HOW IMPOSSIBLE THE THREAT, SHE WOULD MEET THE CHALLENGE HEAD ON AND DARE TO FIGHT!

BUT NOW ALONE IN THE INHOSPITALITY OF THE UNKNOWN, LADY DEATH FINDS HER CONSIDERABLE POWERS, HER FIGHTING SPIRIT, HER VERY RESOLVE... WITHDRAWING AWAY.

ALL HER STRUGGLES, ALL HER QUESTING, ALL HER VICTORIES HAVEN'T REWARDED HER WITH A FRIEND. SHE BELIEVES SHE DESERVES MOST OF ALL, HOME.

TO THINK I WAS VICTORIOUS IN A WAR WITH LUCIFER HIMSELF. 400 YEARS OF TYRANNY AND MANIPULATION LIFTED.

I INHERITED TRUE HELL, BUT IT WAS NOT MY CHOICE. MY GRANDFATHER, IT WAS NOT HIS PLACE! A WAR FOR DOMINANCE ERUPTED AMONG THE DEMONS, BUT I COULD NOT SWAY THEM. I DIDN'T HAVE THE POWERS I ONCE HAD. I STILL DON'T.

LUCIFER CURSED ME NEVER TO RETURN TO EARTH UNTIL ALL THE LIVING WERE DEAD. BUT IN HIS ABSENCE, I WAS CURIOUS. WAS THE CURSE LIFTED? COULD I RETURN?

APPREHENDED THE NEXUS OF ALL THINGS, I TRAVELED ONCE TO THE INFINITE - BUT I WAS TRICKED BY PAGAN, THE INTRIGUE COURT JESTER OF HELL. I WAS PUSHED THROUGH THE NEURIS AND CAME HERE.

THANKS TO MY EARTHLY ENEMY, EVIL ERNE, I INHALED THE EARTH AGAIN. BUT THE CURSE! IT STOOD! WITH MY OWN WORDS AND MY OWN HAND, I WALK HERE, BACK TO THE UNKNOWN.

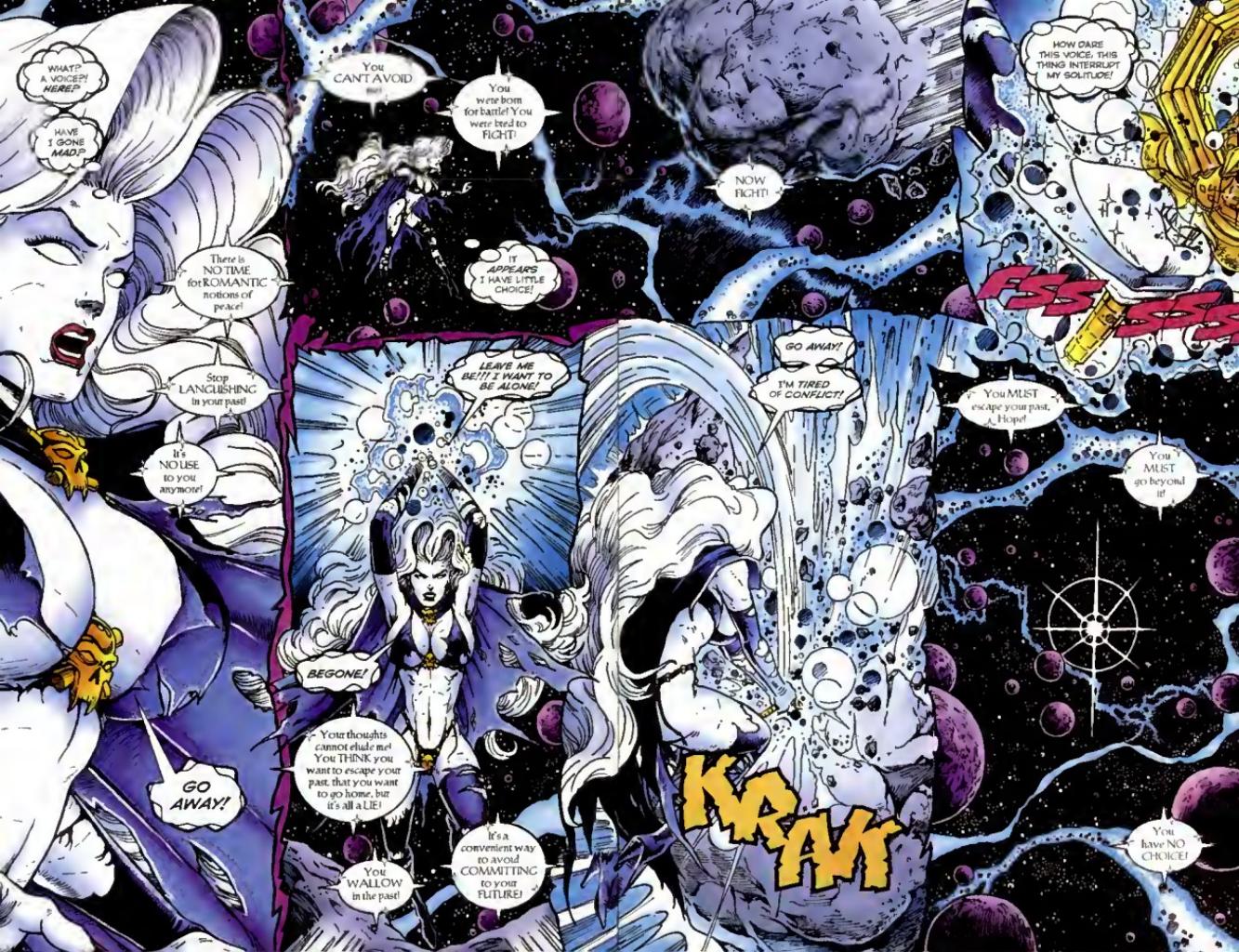
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN HERE? I FEEL HELPLESS, A VICTIM TO CHANGES IN THE TIDE.

I WILL EVER FIND PEACE!

I WILL EVER FIND HOPE!

Stop killing from THE TELLITH!

You CHOSE your DESTINY. Now CLAIM IT!



A THOUSAND REALMS AWAY.

She IS NOT
the fierce warrior
we imagined.

THIS
is the CHOSEN
ONE!

Perhaps ALREADY
we are DOOMED!

Do you
recall your battle
with Lucifer, the
Destroyer of
Paradise?

HOW
COULD I
FORGET?! LUCIFER
PERVERSES
MY EVERY
THOUGHT.

I PROPELLED
HIM INTO HEAVEN'S
GATE! MY VICTORY
WAS A MIRACLE!

The
UNIVERSAL
balance of power
has SHIFTED!

Regardless,
you REMOVED
the Gather of ALL
evil from his
throne!

YOUR ACTIONS
HERALDED
the birth of a
NEW ERA!

The
JUDGMENT
ERA!

GO AWAY!
I DON'T WANT
ANY OF THIS! I WANT
TO GO HOME!

I WANT
PEACE

You
CAN'T go
HOME!

STOP
LYING TO
YOURSELF!

CONFRONT
THE TRUTH!

You are
AFRAID

ADMIT
IT

I CONQUERED
THAT WHICH
DOES ANY OTHER
WOULD DREAD
EVEN IMAGINING!

FOR
400 YEARS,
I'VE VANQUISHED ARMIES,
I'VE DEFEATED DEMONS,
DRUIDS AND WARLOCKS,
I'VE BESTED BLOOD
GOODSESSES
AND SORCERERS

AND I'VE DONE
THE IMPOSSIBLE:
I'VE DEFEATED
LUCIFER.

BUT YES -
I'LL ADMIT
IT!

I AM
AFRAID! MY
DESTINY
TERRIFIES
ME!!!

Deep down
you know
YOU JUST
KNOW -

The challenges
to come for YOU
will make all others
you've faced PALE
in comparison!

HOW IS
THAT POSSIBLE?
TELL ME!!! I'VE DEFEATED
THE FATHER OF
ALL EVIL!

THERE IS
NO HIGHER
CHALLENGE!

The
JUDGEMENT ERA
of the
FALLEN ANGELS
has begun.
Hope...

Like it
or not, you
are at the
very HEART
of it!

There's
NO USE
DENYING
it!

EMBRACE
your
DESTINY!

DECLARE
YOUR
FUTURE!

WOOOOOOOOO!



IN DAYS BEFORE TIME WAS RECORDED, A FEW THOUSAND REALMS AWAY FROM EARTH, THERE WAS A GREAT JUNGLE DOMAIN CALLED MANICORE.

ONE FATEFUL MORNING A DESPERATE FALLEN ANGEL, AGONY, ARRIVED — HER LIFE FORCE DIMINISHING FROM DESPAIR.

SINCE THAT DAY SO LONG AGO MANICORE HAS BEEN IMPRISONED.

TO WHOMSOEVER ITS FORMER NAMESAKE IS SACRILEGE TO DARE EXPOSE THE JUNGLE IS CONSIDERED DESECRATION OF THE HOLY BLASTILLE TUNDRA.

AGONY IS NOT A KIND DEITY. SHE FORBIDS DISTURBANCES OF ANY KIND.

UPON INFLICT, LADY DEATH BREAKS AGONY'S CARDINAL RULE.

WHO DARES INTERRUPT MY SUFFERING?

KRAK-oom

HER PRESENCE ON THE TUNDRA HAS A STRANGELY MAGICAL EFFECT.

AFTER TIME UNTOLD, A HANT OF THE JUNGLE, MANICORE, EMERGES ONCE MORE.

WH-WHERE AM I?

EGONNE'S CATHEDRAL LAIR IS THE DARKEST, COLDEST
POINT IN THE BASTILLE TUNDRA DOMINION.

AND FOR GOOD REASON SHE GUARDS SOULAIN
MANOCRE'S IMPERFECT LIFE ESSENCE HERE.

I SHE GUARDS IT LIKE HER
LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

ALL
KNOW IT IS
FORBIDDEN TO
BREAK THE
SILENCE.
WHO
DAREES?

WHO
DAREIS
IN MY GLOOMY
DOMINION?

SOULAIN
SHOVS LIFE?
IT CANNOT
BE!

WHAT?!

WHO
DAREIS
WITHOUT
MY HOLY
PERMISSION?

I AM
GOD HERE!

RISE,
MY OMNIC
SCHEMERS!

RISE
AND LAY TO
WASTE EVERYTHING
YOU FIND!

AND IF
IT IS ONE
FROM ABOVE,
BRING IT TO
ME!

WHERE AM I NOW?

A JUNGLE
BELOW, BUT
ALL AROUND
ME -- ICE
AS FAR AS
I CAN SEE!

I'M USED
TO ASH AND CINDER,
BUT THIS FEELING....
I FEEL... COLD!

FIRST THE
VOICE INVADES MY
SOLITUDE - AND
NOW THIS?

WHY AM
I HERE?
IS THE VOICE
CONNECTED
TO ALL THIS?

QUESTIONS
TOO MANY
QUESTIONS!

I'VE
FOUGHT
ENOUGH!

I DON'T
CHOOSE
TO START THE
JUDGMENT ERA.
I JUST WANTED
TO SURVIVE!

DEMONS
GROWING OUT
OF THE ICE!!

IT APPEARS
THE FATES ALLY
AGAINST ME. WHEREVER
I GO, THERE IS CONFLICT.
WHEREVER I STEP,
THERE IS
STRUGGLE!

KILL!

KILL HER!

I HAVE
NO USE FOR
THE DESTINY CHOSEN
FOR ME. I'VE EARNED
REST! LET SOME
OTHER FOOL DECIDE
THE FUTURE!

REGARDLESS!
ONE THING IS
CLEAR FOR THE
PRESENT -
LIKE IT OR NOT --

IT IS TIME
FOR WAR!





I CAN'T
EVEN LEVITATE! THAT
WAS AMONG THE MOST
RUDIMENTARY OF
MY POWERS!

I'M REDUCED
TO WALKING!

FOLLOW
ME QUICKLY
BEFORE AGONY
COMES!

WHAT?
SHE SPEAKS INTO
MY MIND!

WHY
SHOULD I
TRUST YOU GIRL?
PERHAPS YOU SIDE
WITH THE DEMONSP!
OR AGONY
HERSELF!

NO!
NEVER!

YOU WERE
SENT TO
SAVE US!

WHY
WOULD I
SAVE
YOU?

HOW I
LOATH THE
GROUND!

IT IS
WHERE MORTALS
ARE CONDEMNED
TO WALK!

SO IT
WOULD
SEEM.

YOU
ANSWERED
OUR PRAYERS.
YOU BRING LIFE
BACK TO THE
JUNGLE!

PLEASE!
YOU MUST COME
TO THE GATHERING
BELOW!

DON'T
ORDER ME,
GIRL!

I'LL COME,
BUT OF MY
OWN ACCORD.

AND
FOR MY OWN
REASONS.

IN THE ANCIENT, WESTERN REGION OF HELL LIES ANDROK, HOME TO PETTY CRIMINALS AND VAGABONDS.

AS LEGENDS GO, THIS VILLAGE OF IDLENESS AND SLOTH WAS BUILT UPON THE BODY OF A GREAT GRAND DUKE, WHOSE LOYALTY TO LUCIFER WAS UNWAVERING.

WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

HOME CAN ESCAPE THE JUDGMENT ERA!

LONG, LONG AGO, A PROPHECY BLEW IN THE WIND. A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY WOULD COME: A JUDGMENT ERA IN HELL—AND BEYOND!

IT WOULD SIGNAL THE FINAL RECKONING FOR ALL THINGS!

RUN!

AAAAAA!

REALIZING THE VAST IMPLICATIONS, LUCIFER, THE FATHER OF ALL EVIL, MADE A PACT WITH HIS MOST LOYAL DUKE, ASTEROOTH

SLEEP ASTEROOTH, AND TAKE PART OF MY POWER WITH YOU, HE SAID. AND IF THE PROPHECY RINGS TRUE, AWAKEN...

Uggghhh

Hoooooo

Ahhhooo

aaaaaaa

aaaaaa



AND DESTROY MY DESTROYER!



THE
DESTROYER!

SHE IS
DOC IN HELL!



HELL'S
LEGACY RESTS
IN MY HANDS!



WHEREVER
SHE IS, IEE
FIND HER!

IEE FIND
HER AND IEE REND
HER FROM CLIMB TO CLIMB
FOR HELL TO SEE, SO ROCKING
WILL CHALLENGE THE
MAGIC OF HELL!



IEE DOC
FATE YOU,
FACKER!



IEE
DOC FATE

PANDEMONIUM.
OUR PRAYERS ARE
ANSWERED! HEAVEN HAS
SENT AN ANGEL
TO SAVE US!

HAVEN'T
YOU COME TO
DESTRY
THE FALLEN
ANGEL?

YOU
THINK WE
AN ANGEL?
HA HA!

TRUST ME
CHILD, NOTHING
COULD BE FURTHER
FROM THE TRUTH!

WHAT
FALLEN
ANGEL?

SHE CALLS HERSELF AGONY,
AND SHE NAMED HERSELF WELL.

SHE WAS DYING WHEN SHE CAME.

BUT SHE DISCOVERED SOULAIN,
THE LIFE-FORCE OF OUR REALM,
AND TOOK ITS POWER FOR HER OWN.

EACH NIGHT, WE HEAR HER Scream.
WE BELIEVE SHE IS FOREVER TIED TO
SOULAIN. SHE CANNOT STRAY FAR FROM IT

SHE KILLED THOUSANDS OF BLIZZARD TO SPREAD
THROUGHOUT THE LAND. SHE SHOWED NO REMORSE -
ONLY PLEASURE, FOR SHE WAS A BITTER BEING. NOT
LONG AFTER, THE JUNGLE WAS NO MORE.

THEN SHE ENTRAPPED SOULAIN IN
A PRISON OF HER OWN MAKING.

ANY WHO OPPOSE HER ARE KILLED.

WE ARE THE FINAL FEW.

WITH YOUR
ANGELIC ENERGY,
YOU CAN RESTORE LIFE TO
SOULAIN AND FOREVER
END UP OF AGONY'S
TYRANNY.

COUNTLESS GENERATIONS HAVE
PAID FOR HER SUFFERING.

BUT WITH YOU, WE HAVE HOPE!

SO AGONY
IS A FALLEN
ANGEL HERE
CURIOS.

MY JOURNEY
GROWS
STRANGER
STILL.

INSIDE HER CATHEDRAL LAIR, AGONY
SENSES LADY DEATH'S APPROACH

YOU WILL
HELP US, WON'T
YOU?!

I AM
NOBODY'S
SAVIOR! FOR MOST
I AM THE
END!

BELIEVE THE
ANGELIC ENERGY
I HARBOUR MAKES ME
AN ANGEL! HOW RIDICULOUS!
I ABSORBED ANGELIC
ENERGY FROM MY
MOTHER'S SPIRIT TO
DEFEAT LUCIFER!

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?
YOU ARE CURIOUS.
AREN'T YOU?
LET ME COME!

I WALK
ALONE!

A BLIZZARD
COMES. WITHOUT
ME, YOU'LL NEVER
FIND AGONY!

SUIT
YOURSELF.

IT'S TIME
I CONFRONTED
THIS AGONY AND
FOUND OUT
EXACTLY WHY
SHE BROUGHT
ME HERE!

THIS IS
MY REALM!

NOTHING
ESCAPES MY
SIGHT HERE!

I'LL NOT
TOLERATE HEAVEN'S
INTRUSION!



CHAOS.
COMICS

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H. Jensen '95

AGONY'S
LAIR LIES
BEYOND

NONE HAVE
SURVIVED BEYOND
THESE STEPS WE
TAKE. BEWARE

SAVE
YOUR CONCERN,
SAVAGE.

THE COLD
IS UNBEARABLE!
THESE FEELINGS OF
MORTALITY ARE SO
FOREIGN TO ME.

IT'S
AGONY!!

INTRUDER!

BUT SHE
BEARS THE
BLOODLINE!

SHE DOES
NOT RESEMBLE
AN ANGEL!

I CAN
SENSE IT! IT'S
UNMISTAKABLE!

I DON'T COME
REPRESENTING
HEAVEN.

YOU
DESECRATE
MY HOLY LAND. YOU
MURDER MY FAITHFUL
SCIONS AND NOW
YOU COME TO
SLAY ME?

SO, HEAVEN
CONSIDERS ME A
FACTOR IN THE
JUDGMENT ERA?

YOU
BROUGHT
ME HERE!
WHY?!

BROUGHT
YOU HERE?
NEVER!

DON'T TRY TO
CONFUSE ME!
YOUR BLOODLINE
BETRAYS YOU!

SKRAAK!

YOU ARE
CRAZED! YOU
ENSE ONLY WHAT
YOU WANT TO

YES.
THE BLOOD
OF HEAVEN COURSES
THROUGH MY
VEINS...

BELOW,
THE CATHEDRAL
INSIDE IS
SOLAIN.

... BUT
SO DOES THE
BLOOD OF
HELL!

... THEN
WHO OR
WHAT DID?

SHE
DIDN'T BRING
ME HERE! SHE'S
NOT THE
VOICE!

EERRA

ASSH

I KNOW
HOW YOUR KIND
WORKS. YOU PRETEND
TO BE SHINING
GOODS

I ADORNED
THE EXODUS OF THE
ANGELS. MY PRIDE AND
SEDUCTIVENESS SET ME
IMMEDIATELY. I REALIZED
MY FOOLISH

I TRIED
TO RETURN THROUGH
HEAVEN'S GATE, BUT THE
SERAPHIM DENIED

I WAS
CAST OUT

BUT
I WAS AMONG
THE AEON, THE
HUMAN CREATORS!

IT'S FROZEN
IN HERE!
FREEZING!

THE TREES!

IF ONLY
I HAD ALL MY
STRENGTH!

DAMN.
SINCE THE
TRIBE AND IT'S GROWING
COLDER BY THE SECOND!

IS IT NOT
ENOUGH THAT I'M
DENIED HEAVEN'S
GRACE AND DENY
ME THIS REALM
AS WELL?

TILL MAKE
YOU SUFFER AS
I HAVE! FOR ALL
ETERNITY!

YOU'LL
BEG TO
DIE!!!

DO THEY
FORGIVE MY
INDISCRETION?
WAS I GIVEN
ANOTHER
CHANCE?
NO, I
WAS ETERNALLY
DAMNED!

IVE ROTTED
HERE! TRAPPED!
UNABLE TO ESCAPE!
FOR MILLIONS OF NIGHTS
AND MORE, I'VE BEEN
HAUNTED BY MY
IRREVOCABLE
DECISION!

HER BODY
IS FREEZING!
CHOKING ME!
SO COLD! MUST
BLAST HER! NO!
CAN'T DO IT!
SLASH!
WEAKENING

FIGHT!
MUST FIGHT!!

WHY FIGHT?
THAT'S WHAT
SHE EXPECTS!



THE EFFECT IS VIRTUALLY INSTANTANEOUS
AS LADY DEATH'S ANGELIC ENERGIES
MAKE CONTACT WITH SOULAH

LIFE SEEPES BACK INTO ITS TRUNK. ITS
BRANCHES QUICKLY. THE ANGELIC ENERGY
SPREADS THROUGH SOULAH'S ROOTS AND
BEYOND — TO THE JUNGLE, GIVING LIFE

THE FRIGID, DECAYING
BASTILLE TUNDRA IS NO MORE

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EONS, AGONY'S DESPERATE
HOLD ON MANICORE IS SHATTERED!

AND LIFE IN
MANICORE
ABOUNDS!

NO!
IT ISN'T
FAIR!

IT
ISN'T
FAIR!
COULD'NT
ESCAPE...

I ONLY
WANTED TO
GO...
HOME...





WELL, WELL!

LOOK WHAT WE
GOT HERE!

QUITE A
CATCH, EH?

SHE'LL MAKE
A FINE
SLAVE!!!

NEXT: ENSLAVED!